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General Assembly

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Second Committee
Agenda item 12
Report of the Economic and Social Council

Letter dated 3 December 2003 from the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization to the Chairman of the Second Committee

I have the honour to refer to resolution 456 (XV) adopted by the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization on 24 October 2003 concerning, inter alia, the establishment in the near future of an "International Year of Tourism" in order to contribute, through various events held during such an occasion around the world, to the alleviation of international conflicts and confrontations between States and to the realization of world peace.

In accordance with article V of the Agreement on Cooperation and Relationships between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization, approved in General Assembly resolution 32/156, currently in force, the World Tourism Organization may submit written statements to the subsidiary organs of the General Assembly of the United Nations on matters of common interest. As you know, the World Tourism Organization is expected to be transformed shortly into a specialized agency of the United Nations. In that connection, the Second Committee has recommended that the General Assembly of the United Nations approve the agreement between the United Nations and the World Tourism Organization set out in the annex to document A/C.2/58/2. Pursuant to paragraph 2, article 3, of that agreement, written statements presented by the World Tourism Organization shall be distributed to the members of the Main Committees and other organs of the General Assembly.

Based on the foregoing, I would be very grateful if you could share the present letter and the attached copy of resolution 456 (XV) (see annex) with the members of the Second Committee.

(*Signed*) Francesco **Frangialli**
Secretary-General
World Tourism Organization

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Annex to the letter dated 3 December 2003 from the Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization to the Chairman of the Second Committee

A/RES/456 (XV)

Report of the Secretary-General

International Year of Tourism

Agenda item 7

The General Assembly,

Having heard the proposal of Japan,

Considering that WTO is about to enter into a new stage through its transformation into a specialized agency of the United Nations,

Aware that, in addition to its growing contribution to the world economy, tourism can play a decisive part in resolving conflicts, settling differences and promoting lasting peace among peoples,

1. *Requests* the Secretariat to propose that the United Nations establish in the near future an "International Year of Tourism" in order to contribute, through various events held during such an occasion around the world, to the alleviation of international conflicts and confrontations between States, and to the realization of world peace; and

2. *Urges* all of its Members to support this initiative in the United Nations General Assembly.